

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5136

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. HALL (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Integrated
5 Drought Information System Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) DROUGHT.—The term “drought” means a
2 deficiency in precipitation—

3 (A) that leads to a deficiency in surface or
4 subsurface water supplies (including rivers,
5 streams, wetlands, ground water, soil moisture,
6 reservoir supplies, lake levels, and snow pack);
7 and

8 (B) that causes or may cause—

9 (i) substantial economic or social im-
10 pacts; or

11 (ii) substantial physical damage or in-
12 jury to individuals, property, or the envi-
13 ronment.

14 (2) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
15 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
16 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

17 **SEC. 4. NIDIS PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, through the
19 National Weather Service and other appropriate weather
20 and climate programs in the National Oceanic and Atmos-
21 pheric Administration, shall establish a National Inte-
22 grated Drought Information System.

23 (b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
24 Drought Information System shall—

1 (1) provide an effective drought early warning
2 system that—

3 (A) is a comprehensive system that collects
4 and integrates information on the key indica-
5 tors of drought in order to make usable, reli-
6 able, and timely assessments of drought, includ-
7 ing assessments of the severity of drought and
8 drought forecasts.

9 (B) communicates drought forecasts,
10 drought conditions, and drought impacts on an
11 ongoing basis to—

12 (i) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
13 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of gov-
14 ernment;

15 (ii) the private sector; and

16 (iii) the public,

17 in order to engender better informed and more
18 timely decisions thereby leading to reduced im-
19 pacts and costs; and

20 (C) includes timely (where possible real-
21 time) data, information, and products that re-
22 flect local, regional, and State differences in
23 drought conditions; and

1 (2) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
 2 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
 3 ing system.

4 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall con-
 5 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local
 6 government agencies, research institutions, and the pri-
 7 vate sector in the development of the National Integrated
 8 Drought Information System.

9 (d) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
 10 CIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appro-
 11 priate with the Under Secretary in carrying out this Act.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 14 this Act—

- 15 (1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- 16 (2) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- 17 (3) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- 18 (4) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- 19 (5) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and
- 20 (6) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

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